

July, 2017

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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A Discussion with Mayor Robb Davis by Tom Dowling



As a new resident, I was honored to have the opportunity to meet Mayor Robb Davis. We had an interesting discussion of issues that have come before the City Council in recent months. I found him very forthcoming in his responses to my questions.

Knowing that Davis clearly has an excellent downtown area for residents, visitors, and businesses, I was curious to learn the Mayor's appraisal of both its attractions and problems. He explained some of the challenges of reassessing development: ***People in buildings that are fairly low want to encourage certain types of people to live nearby. More population downtown will attract more businesses. The challenge is how do we get the ball rolling. That is why we are working on a plan. We need to reassess charging for downtown parking. Investments have been made downtown. It's been successful for restaurants and entertainment.***

We all take pride in Davis being among the most bike-friendly cities in the country. Noticing that the Mayor had, in fact, bicycled to our interview, I was impressed to learn that both he and his wife are dedicated cyclists, neither having driven a car in about 15 years. Indeed, their adult children only recently acquired their initial driver's licenses!

This naturally promoted the question of what the Council is currently doing to encourage the use of bicycles. ***-New street standards will enable all users more safety. Looking at corridors is so important. Examples are Mace Blvd south of the freeway, 14th/Villanova, and B St. Covell Corridor near the Cannery is a new form of protected intersection, where a safer crossing for bikes and pedestrians remakes the corridor. The biggest challenges involve two nearby railroads. We are taking a broad approach to entire corridors, making them more accessible to kids on foot or riding bikes near schools. This should be encouraged.***

UCD is, of course, central to the identity of Davis. Mayor Davis described our "town-gown" relationship by noting: ***The biggest resource has been the great number of highly educated people engaged in the life of the city---truly amazing. Community broadband produces \$100s of millions to be saved. A new life-style exists, and the university finds people coming here from all over the world, bringing great variation that produces richness for our city. HM.Clause and Schilling Robotics are two companies coming here after UC Davis opened.***

We also discussed planning to deal with the congestion caused by traffic exiting Interstate 80 at the Richards Boulevard-Olive Drive intersection. ***There are several things. Council has approved appropriate signs to encourage people driving to campus to use other exits. Also a major fundamental tight-diamond redesign would move bikes to the east side of the interchange. The Olive Drive off-ramp would be closed completely. Redesign will cost \$10 million. More bikes are encouraged, but the tunnel can't be widened.***

The Mayor also explained how our council continually seeks reductions in our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. ***There are new rooftop solar panels up for single-family houses, and some will be up for multi-family buildings. (continued p.3)***

Democratic News

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Photography:

Luba Schmid

Tues., Aug. 1, 7:00-9:00 pm., DDC Board Meeting, Blanchard Room, Davis Library . Regularly scheduled Board Meetings to organize Club activities. All members invited to attend.

Sat., Aug. 19, 12:00-8:00 pm, Public Outreach: Yolo County Fair. The Club will staff the Yolo County Democratic Party's voter information booth at the County Fair. Volunteer an hour or two for political outreach and to greet the public. Contact Rick Gonzales at <gonzales_rick@sbcglobal.net> to join this fun activity.

Sun. Sept. 17 6:00 pm, Fall BBQ (Save the date, details TBA)

July 4th, DDC Community Outreach



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The DDC celebrated July 4th by presenting voter information at its annual public outreach booth in Community Park.

Throughout the day, our booth was staffed by a rotation of DDC Board members, who were joined by friends promoting "Health Care for All" and many of our great elected leaders including Assembly member Cecilia Aguire-Curry, County Supervisor Don Saylor, County Recorder Jesse Salinas and City Councilmember Lucas Frerichs.

In addition to distributing literature promoting the DDC, local leaders and Democratic policies, we had frequent conversations with people who are greatly concerned by our country's present leadership and expressed their desire to become involved in political action. Given the circumstances and present political climate, this was an excellent way to celebrate our nation's birthday and political freedom.



State & Local Leaders tell Washington DC

Patron

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(Mayor Davis interview from p.1)

Builders of two large hotels and two large apartment complexes have agreed to increase green design, and we have been able to use requests for variances to push more green design. It's difficult to build more housing closer to UC Davis with the current lack of agreements. We still encourage people to bike. Transportation accounts for 50% of our carbon footprint.

As a Davis newbie, I am pleased to report that our progressive city still enjoys progressive leadership.

The DDC Develops a Social Media Presence

by Giles Giovinazzi

The Davis Democratic Club has made a concerted effort to strengthen its social media presence this year. Please visit the DDC Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DavisDemocrats/> and also the DDC Twitter page at: <https://twitter.com/DavisDemocrats>

We currently have 480 followers on Facebook, please invite your friends to "like" and follow the DDC Facebook page. We have been posting good content on California 2018 U.S. Congressional Races (e.g., *Atlantic Monthly*, "California Is Ground Zero in the Battle Over the House"; *Politico*, "Vulnerable California Republicans Struggle to Sell Obamacare Repeal Vote", etc.), information about local Democratic Congressional candidates (e.g., Jessica Morse, Regina Bateson and others running against Congressman Tom McClintock in CA-4), local and national grass roots "#Resistance" groups and events (e.g., Indivisible, Sister District, Swing Left, Solidarity Sundays, Onward Together, Emerge America, etc.), Democratic national and state interest stories (e.g., Trump-Russia, Paris Agreement withdrawal, Immigration Ban, Healthcare debate – ACA, AHCA and SB 562, etc.) and DDC and affiliated events (DDC Board Meetings, Davis Progressive Business Exchange luncheons, Champagne Brunch, etc.).

We will have updates in upcoming DDC Newsletters discussing DDC social media efforts and areas of interest that we have been posting in social media.

- Helen & Cap Thomson
- Marvin Tripp
- Rick Vuillet
- Lois & Bruce Wolk
- Richard & Jane Ziegler

PASSPORT (\$50)

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Democratic Newsletter

DDC Community Outreach
Sat., Aug. 19
12:00-8:00 pm
At the Yolo County Fair
Volunteer a little time to promote Democratic values!

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See the website photo gallery:

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

To JOIN or RENEW (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617

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Bob Bockwinkel

CalBRE#01056521
Mobile: (530) 219-1896
Fax: (530) 746-2077
Email: bbockwinkel@golygonRN.com